MH.
03582

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

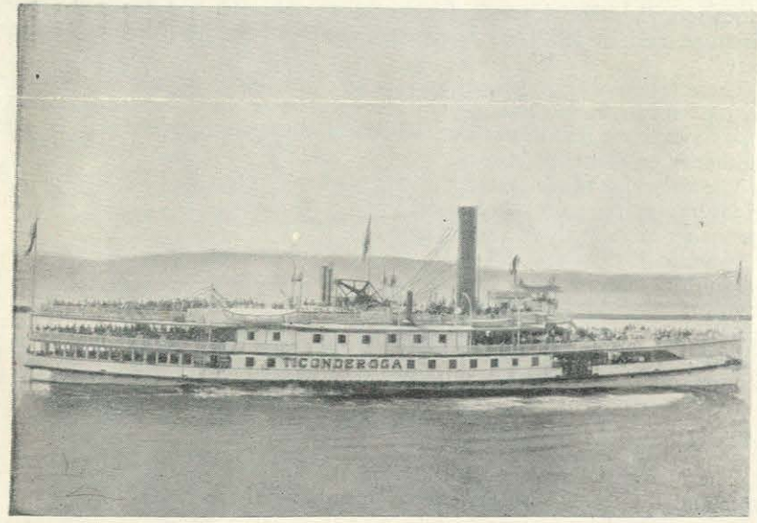
VOLUME 1 SEPTEMBER, 1949 NUMBER 1

4/14/53

National Library Bindery Co.

GREETINGS . . . . . .

To keep you in touch with the activities of the Society, we are aiming to issue a monthly newsletter as a part of our services to our members. This issuance will not replace any other publication and we hope that it will serve to bring about a closer relationship. We'll welcome bits of news of local societies and members, and appreciate all suggestions and criticism. Let us hear from you, won't you?



BURLINGTON MEETING

Many members have requested that VHS meetings be held in summer. This year the Vermont Historical Society will be host to the 1949 international convention of the American Association for State and Local History, being held on September 12, 13 and 14, with headquarters at Oakledge Manor, Burlington.

Monday's program will be devoted entirely to a joint session of the annual Lake Champlain Conference of the New York Historical Association and the

V. H. S. Leaving Burlington aboard the "Ticonderoga," the last of the great white fleet of Lake Champlain sidewheelers, the group will combine its conference meetings with a visit to the famous restoration at Ticonderoga.

Tuesday's morning session will be at Oakledge on "Publishing Local History" and, in the afternoon, chartered busses will transport the group to the Shelburne Restoration, the Sheldon Museum at Middlebury and to Montpelier for a reception by Governor Ernest W. Gibson and the annual dinner. Then back to Burlington, that evening.

On Wednesday, the University of Vermont will house the conferences which will be devoted to "Local History Studies" and "Historic Markers".

Since we're hosts and hostesses and especially because of the excellent program, let's do our best to be there, for at least the first day.

OUR SOCIETY

We were organized as a state corporation in 1838 as "The Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society" for the purpose of "collecting and preserving materials" for the history of our state. Our collections were first housed in the town of Barnet, later in an upper room of the capitol. Establishment of a museum and library was not contemplated until after many documents belonging to the Society were destroyed by the burning of the State House in 1857.

The General Assembly soon passed an Act appropriating a "convenient and spacious room", although we find it was also to be used as a committee room by Legislature, and in 1859 our name was shortened to the "Vermont Historical Society."

These actions by Legislature can be credited to our founder and first president, the "distinguished antiquarian" Henry Stevens of Barnet and Burlington. He was a collector and dealer in old books and manuscripts and was considered an authority on Vermont history.

The drive for funds and members began way back in 1869 when the State Legislature appropriated two hundred and fifty dollars " . . . to . . . aid in the preservation of . . . valuable collections . . .".

Now, in 1949, we're still at it. You will remember the article in "Vermont Life" by Mr. John McDill, which reviewed the activities of the Society. Reprints of that are being mailed to prospective members with our invitations to membership. We are expecting acceptances from every one and will continue to count on you, our members, to furnish us with more names. We find that almost without exception, our friends are happy to accept. They just never have been asked.

WATCH FOR CARTOONS!

The Newport Express, Rutland Herald, Burlington Free Press, Barre Daily Times and the Brattleboro Reformer are now purchasing and using our weekly cartoon, prepared by George Merkle, who is an old Chicago Tribune man, now in Bartonsville. Watch for them. The series is entitled "This Is Vermont".

VERMONT FIRST'S

Did you know that the first postage stamps made in the U. S. were used in Brattleboro in 1846? . . . the first steamship line in North America was started at Shelburne Harbor? . . . that there were no high schools for girls and no college in the world admitted women when Emma Willard opened her female Seminary in the early 1800's under the shadow of Middlebury College?

974.30
V59ln
copy 2

HISTORIC SITE MARKERS

Designed and sponsored by the Vermont Historic Sites Commission and erected by the Highway Department, green and gold plaques are still being posted along major highways, telling a story of our State's history. Before the project is completed this fall, there will be 75 markers, providing tourists with the story of Vermont near the spots where history was made.

A booklet, "Historic Vermont" will soon be available at hotels, information booths and tourist spots, containing illustrations with longer and more complete historical accounts of the markers.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

The Vermont Story, by Earle W. Newton
This first full-length illustrated history of the people of the Green Mountain State, 1749-1949, presents a colorful pageant of Vermont from its beginnings to the present. Nearly 200 illustrations in full color. $7.50

Peacham: The Story of a Vermont Hill Town, by Ernest L. Bogart
A searching study of a representative New England town. 6.00

Growth of Vermont Series

Volume IV. *Vermont in Quandary,* 1760-1820, by Chilton Williamson. The inside story of the famous negotiations conducted by Ira Allen to attach Vermont to Canada. 4.50

Volume VI. *Social Ferment in Vermont,* 1791-1850, by David M. Ludlum. Second edition. A careful and intelligent analysis of social unrest preceding the Civil War. 3.00

Volume V. *Migration from Vermont,* by Lewis D. Stilwell. Second edition. Study of about 8000 Vermonters who left their state in earlier years. 3.00

The First Medical College in Vermont, 1818-1862, by Frederick Clayton Waite. A complete history of Castleton Medical College. This, Dr. Waite's second book, completes the story of medical colleges in Vermont. 5.00

Collections of the Vermont Historical Society

Ethan and Ira Allen, Volumes VII & VIII (in one volume)
Biographical sketches and documents. 2.25
Biographical Sketches of Vermonters, Volumes IX & X 2.25 each

Dake of Castleton, by Herbert Wheaton Congdon
Study of Vermont's "most brilliant practitioner" of architecture and probably least known — Thomas R. Dake. Illustrations of early Vermont structures, both exterior and interior. $1.50

Copies may be ordered from the V. H. S. headquarters in Montpelier. Members receive 20% discount on all publications of the Society, except on the "Vermont Story"

SOME RECENT MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

Photostat of the first U. S. patent issued, July 1, 1790, to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont "for an improvement in the making of pot-ash and pearl-ash".

Lithograph-Memphremagog House, Newport, Vermont. Original hostelry was built in the 1850's and, up into the 80's, was one of the fashionable hotel resorts of New England . . . "$4.00 a day, 300 guests, a large first-class hotel on the lake shore".

MANUSCRIPT GIFTS

Two important collections of papers have been presented to the Society, disclosing more of the life of William Czar Bradley, a Vermonter who starred in international relations in the early 1800's. The family papers of Daniel Kellogg, son-in-law, which date from 1807 to 1862, were the gift of Mrs. Susan K. Wright of Westminster, and those of Jonathan Dorr Bradley, son, date from 1802 to 1887.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER

Leon S. Gay, President; Earle W. Newton, Director.

Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

OPEN TO ALL: Daily, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.
Founded 1838. Membership, $3.00 a year; $5.00, sustaining;
$10.00, institutional; $100.00, life.

VHS *News and Notes*
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

Vermont Historical Society
ACCESSION NO.
25836
Vermont

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 OCTOBER, 1949 NUMBER 2

YOUR SOCIETY IS HONORED

The V. H. S. has received national recognition for its contribution to the preservation of American local history. As recipient of the annual *Award of Merit,* the Society has been named by the American Association for State and Local History for outstanding achievement during the last year.

The American Association for State and Local History
Washington, D. C.

Award of Merit

The American Association for State and Local History is pleased to recognize and commend the distinctive contribution of the

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For an unusual and dynamic program of interpreting the state's historical heritage in cooperation with state and private organizations including a popular quarterly magazine Vermont Life which has attained a circulation of 50,000; The Vermont Story, a colorful presentation of state history in book form, both of which set new standards in historical interpretation reaching wide audiences.

To American Local History, in witness whereof this Certificate is presented in accordance with the formal citation of the Committee on Awards dated on the fourteenth day of September, 1949 and transmitted to the proper officers.

F. K. Stratton
President

Albert B. Corey
Chairman of the Committee on Awards

NEW NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

A new national magazine, with a circulation which includes the U. S. and Canada, made its debut in our own State at Burlington on Sunday, September 11. *American Heritage* is the colorful historical quarterly of the American Association for State and Local History, and its announcement was made simultaneously with the opening of the association's convention in Burlington.

Vermont is predominant in the first issue which carries 12 pages in full color on the story of the Champlain Valley, the steamer *Ticonderoga,* the Sheldon Museum of Middlebury and feature articles by Vermont authors Frederic Van de Water, Ralph N. Hill and Dean of Middlebury College W. Storrs Lee. Subsequent issues will search out little known stories of other regions.